

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0902

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PORG APER
SUBJ: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: A) STATE 148782 B) STATE 082612

1. THE PAYOFF IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY WILL BE LARGELY RESTRICTED TO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT FIRMLY COMMITTED IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICIES, SUCH AS PAPUA NEW GUINEA. I BELIEVE GREATER EFFORT IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IN PORT MORESBY COULD PRODUCE REAL RESULTS.
2. I BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD GIVE GREATER RECOGNITION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND ESPECIALLY TO THE FACT THAT SMALL COUNTRIES ARE AS IMPORTANT AS SUPER POWERS WHEN THE VOTES ARE COUNTED IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. I URGE THE DEPT TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF POSTS IN SMALL COUNTRIES IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT PROMOTING MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.
3. ONE REQUIREMENT IS MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MORE TIMELY INFORMATION. A SMALL POST LIKE PORT MORESBY CANNOT HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO MAKE A DEMARCHE ON A SUBJECT WITH A 20-YEAR HISTORY ON THE BASIS OF A SINGLE CABLE. WE NEED MORE
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INFORMATION IN OUR FILES AND WE NEED TIME TO STUDY IT, BRIEF OURSELVES, AND PREPARE AIDE MEMOIRES BEFORE SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH GPNG OFFICIALS WHO MAY HAVE NO BACKGROUND AND LITTLE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT DISCUSSED. VISITS FROM TECHNICALLY EXPERT US OFFICIALS WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE IN EXPLAINING OUR VIEWS. WE KNOW THAT SUCH VISITS ARE REGULARLY MADE TO LARGE POSTS, BUT PORT MORESBY IS ALWAYS BYPASSED.

4. A SECOND REQUIREMENT IS MORE LUCID INSTRUCTIONS. SOME CABLES CONTAIN SO MUCH JARGON AND ASSUME SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE UN THAT WE FIND THEM ALMOST INCOMPREHENSIBLE. DRAFTERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT SMALL POSTS LACK THE PERSONNEL TO SPECIALIZE, AND HENCE CABLES SHOULD BE DRAFTED FOR THE GENERAL OFFICER.

5. A THIRD REQUIREMENT IS A BETTER RESPONSE TO OUR CABLES. AFTER PNG VOTED AGAINST THE US ON THE GUAM RESOLUTION IN THE UNGA, THIS POST PROPOSED A SERIES OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY WASHINGTON AND/OR GUAM (PORT MORESBY 0079 DATED JAN 14,1977) DESIGNED TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE ADVERSE VOTE. TO DATE, NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO THAT CABLE AND WE UNDERSTAND FROM VISITORS THAT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON IT.

6. A FOURTH REQUIREMENT IS RECOGNITION BY THE DEPT THAT SOME ISSUES ARE SO REMOTE FROM PNG INTERESTS THAT IT IS BETTER TO LET PNG ABSTAIN WHILE WE FOCUS ON THE SUBJECTS IN WHICH ARE MEANINGFUL TO THEM.

7. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, CONSTANCY IN OUR POLICIES IS NEEDED TO MAKE OUR POSITION CREDIBLE. IF, AFTER ALL THE THREATS WE HAVE MADE ABOUT WITHDRAWING FROM THE ILO, WE DECIDE TO CONTINUE OUR MEMBERSHIP, OUR CREDIBILITY WILL SUFFER A SERIOUS BLOW IN PORT MORESBY IF NOWHERE ELSE. FURTHER, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE NEED CONSISTENCY IN WHAT WE ADVOCATE. TO CITE AN EXAMPLE WHERE CONSISTENCY IS LACKING, THE USIA FILM ON THE LAW OF THE SEA SEEMED TO CONDONE EXPANSION OF THE TERRITORIAL ZONE TO 12 MILES. BUT SHORTLY AFTER THAT FILM ARRIVED, WE RECEIVED CABLE FROM DEPT (REF B) INFORMING US THAT PROTEST NOTES WERE BEING PREPARED FOR THOSE STATES HAVING TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIMS GREATER THAN THREE NAUTICAL MILES.

8. VISITS FROM HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BROAD-RANGING DISCUSSIONS OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. THE GPNG WOULD BE VERY FLATTERED IF THE SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY STOPPED HERE FOR 24 HOURS WHEN IN THIS AREA. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED HERE. I STRONGLY URGE THAT SUCH VISITS BE PROGRAMED AS PART OF A STEPPED-UP EFFORT IN MULTILATERAL RELATIONS.

9. OUTGOING MLO IS EASTON, INCOMING AS OF AUGUST WILL BE FSO-3 RUSSELL OLSON.

10. ADDITIONA COMMENT AND REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN 76 STATE 37591 WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, CAN BE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING RECENTLY

COMPLETED NATIONAL ELECTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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